



Housing Authority of the City of Everett

119.1
COMMISSIONERS
Jay Cole
David Dorsey
George Perez, Jr.
Lyle Ryan
Michael Sells
Barbara Yates

October 22, 2003

RECEIVED

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Kevin Rochlin
Superfund Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, HW-113
Seattle, WA 98101

Environmental Cleanup Office

Dear Mr. Rochlin:

Re: Everett Smelter Site
ASARCO Trust Funds

I am enclosing for your files copies of letters I have sent today to Joe Tieger and David Dain at the Washington, D.C. headquarters of EPA and the Department of Justice, respectively.

As I have indicated in these letters, we are very concerned that the proposal discussed at last Spring's public meeting in Everett to dispose of the highest levels of contaminated materials from Everett in the containment facility at Ruston Tacoma will be permanently lost if ASARCO Trust Funds are not budgeted for this disposal to occur in 2004. That possibility continues to provide this community with the only realistic means to restore the northeast Everett community to the active neighborhood it was a decade ago.

We hope that the Seattle EPA office will aggressively support this plan and the Trust Fund budget for 2004 necessary to carry it out. The residents of northeast Everett deserve to have their neighborhood restored and EPA can make that possible.

Sincerely,



Bud Alkire
Executive Director

USEPA SF



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Housing Authority of the City of Everett

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October 22, 2003

Mr. Joe Tieger
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Mail Code 2272A
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Tieger:

Re: Everett, Washington Smelter Site
ASARCO Trust Funds

I am writing to you as well as to Mr. David Dain at the Department of Justice to express our strong support for the use of the ASARCO Trust Funds to clean up the Everett Smelter Site in 2004. In determining the best use of these limited funds, you need to keep clearly focused on the fact that this site is not only *in the middle of a residential area* but that there are **four HUD-subsidized low-income housing developments with 630 families residing in the Smelter Site Study Area**. The closest development with 148 large-family apartments is less than 200 feet from the Site at its closest point.

It would be a great travesty of justice to lose the opportunity to dispose of the highest concentrations of arsenic-contaminated soils from the Everett site in the specially designed containment facility at the ASARCO Ruston Tacoma site. This will have NO adverse affect on the Ruston Tacoma community since the containment facility is adequately sized to take the Everett material. An inexpensive disposal option will be forever lost if the Ruston Tacoma facility is closed and sealed next year with unused capacity for high-level contaminants. Even a one-year delay will mean an increased demand on the Trust Funds in the range of \$4 million!

Since the arsenic contamination was discovered a decade ago, an active, attractive residential neighborhood has been converted into a ghost-town with security fences surrounding six acres of empty yards and abandoned foundations. You have the opportunity to reverse this situation and to begin the process of restoring this neighborhood. The first step is committing ASARCO Trust Funds to this effort in 2004!

We understand that there are many demands for the Trust Funds and appreciate your responsibilities to all of the affected sites. However, the residential nature of this site, the 630 federally subsidized rental units surrounding it, and the one-time opportunity to coordinate two cleanup sites to the advantage of both, combine to make this the top priority for those Funds.

On behalf of our tenants and the other neighbors who have waited so patiently for this process to end, I urge you to approve Trust Funds for the Everett cleanup in 2004!

Sincerely,

Bud Alkire
Executive Director

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Housing Authority of the City of Everett

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October 22, 2003

Mr. David Dain
U.S. Department of Justice
1425 New York Avenue NW, Suite 10014
Washington, D.C. 20044

Dear Mr. Dain:

Re: Everett, Washington Smelter Site
ASARCO Trust Funds

On behalf of the Housing Authority of the City of Everett and its 650 families residing within the Everett Smelter Site Study Area, I am writing to you and to Mr. Joe Tieger at EPA to express our strong support for the use of the ASARCO Trust Funds to clean up the Everett Smelter Site in 2004. In considering alternative uses of the limited Trust Funds, we ask that you keep in the front of your mind the fact that this site is not only *in the middle of a residential area* but that there are **four HUD-subsidized low-income housing developments with 630 families residing in the Smelter Site Study Area. The closest development with 148 large-family apartments is less than 200 feet from the Site at its closest point.**

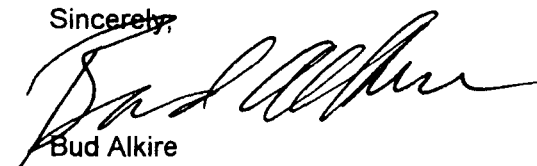
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On behalf of our tenants and the other neighbors who have waited so patiently for this process to end, I urge you to approve Trust Funds for the Everett cleanup in 2004!

Sincerely,



Bud Alkire
Executive Director

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